

To: Renewable Advisory Board

From: Janice McClanaghan,  
Energy Office

Date: December 5, 2005

Subject: Update

The following is the December 2005 monthly update for the Renewable Energy Fund:

**RES Programs/Supply**

- 1) RES – (Bob Grace to provide update at December 2005 meeting.)

**Wind Projects (On-Site and Grid-Connected)**

- 2) URI – The anchors and the concrete are in. The students and Henry DuPont dug them in about 2 weeks ago. They are now waiting on Henry to put up the actual tower and anemometer. He has been busy at Portsmouth Abbey.
- 3) Portsmouth Abbey Wind – A publicity event was held in November. See Smartpower update for details.
- 4) Raytheon – See attached avian study.
- 5) Roger Williams University Wind Center – (See attached Update.)
- 6) Berkshire Wind – No Update.

**Hydro and Ocean Technologies**

- 7) Energetech Point Judith Ocean Wave Project – See attached (2 documents – 1 in word and 1 pdf) for updates on the Port Kembla project. A meeting will be scheduled in January during which the developer will update the Funds. Energetech had hoped to seek a slot on the congressional wish list for Federal appropriations in February 2006, but given that the CRMC permit application has not been filed and FERC has asserted jurisdiction, it is unlikely that Senator Reed's office will support a request in this round.
- 8) Offshore Technology Presentation – Bob Grace found a great presentation giving an overview of the current state of the art for wave and tidal energy, by George Hagerman at Virginia Tech, who is recognized as the preeminent expert on the subject in the US.

[http://www.ceage.vt.edu/2DOC/VaBeachCZM\\_GH2005.pdf](http://www.ceage.vt.edu/2DOC/VaBeachCZM_GH2005.pdf)

- 9) Royal Mills Hydro – Update in progress.
- 10) Rentricity –
  - a) Pawtucket - Energetech is in discussions with Earthtech (Pawtucket's sub-contractor) regarding the operational questions versus the design scenarios developed.
  - b) Providence Water - The application for a small conduit exemption has been completed and submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as of November 28th. Rentricity is in receipt of agency letters, specifically the U.S. Department of the Interior and Rhode Island State Historical Preservation Dept, confirming their belief of no

respective environmental and historical conflicts. Both Janice McClangahan and Paul Gadoury (PWSB) have been copied on that application and Rentricity will track its review over the next few months. Typically the FERC will take at least 3 months to review an application. If for whatever reason, the FERC denies the request, Rentricity would likely recommend that RISEO, Providence Water and Rentricity request a declaratory ruling on this type of micro-hydro system.

- c) Narragansett Bay Commission - Rentricity is in receipt of historical data on the effluent flows of the NBC facility and is currently reviewing construction level drawings to determine if a feasible energy recovery opportunity exists. In addition, Rentricity has prepared an outline of Wastewater Operators in the State and will be phone surveying the operators more thoroughly over the next few weeks to determine overall energy recovery potential (see attached spreadsheet.)

11) Slater Mill Hydro Project –No update.

#### **Voluntary Market Support – Customer Sited**

12) Solar on Schools – (Chris Warfel, Entech Engineering, to provide update.)

13) Low Income Solar – No Update.

14) Federal Tax Credits for Solar – No Update.

#### **Voluntary Market Support – Green Power**

Renewable Energy Customer Aggregation (RECA) RFP and Proposal to Large Customer Program – Mark Crowdis reports that no significant changes in the last month.

15) State House Green Power Purchase – No Update.

16) GreenUp – As of the end of November, 2005, there have been a total of 3211 GreenUp signups, as compared to 2941 at the end of October, 2005.

#### **Outreach and Education**

17) Smartpower – See attached Update.

18) CESA - CESA is heading up activities to promote renewables:

- a) Offshore wind project:
  - i) Overview: (See attached memo from Mark Sinclair) In the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Minerals Management Service (MMS) of Dept. of Interior (DOI) is charged with/was given lead authority for permitting off-shore wind and other renewable energy projects in Federal waters, with regulations to be issued by May of 2006. MMS will also establish leasing or royalty fees for such use of these resources, and is required to share a portion of those revenues with coastal states for projects within 3 miles of state waters. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) has not yet been issued. CESA has proposed to use Clean Energy Group to do research on how such issues have been handled elsewhere, including in Europe. CESA has proposed to the northeastern coastal states with Clean Energy Funds that getting involved in the rulemaking and putting forth a unified position.
  - ii) Status of efforts: CESA is doing research, looking at good frameworks to propose to MMS for offshore wind siting (perhaps a programmatic EIS, & looking at EU practices.) The objective is to end up with a streamlined and efficient process

without unnecessary hurdles for leasing, siting, and permitting offshore wind. CEG is working on developing comments now, and will have something within the next 2 weeks. They have an attorney looking at how folks are handling it in UK and Denmark. They have been in touch with MMS< and MMS is definitely interested in the states' perspective

- iii) CESA is asking RIREF: To allow CESA to represent that this is RI's perspective, joining with NJ, MA, and maybe NY and PA. The others are onboard with the idea of putting forward a unified position. At this point, the only commitment is for CEG to do research and recommend a position to these CESA states. CESA will then seek input from the states on a draft for comment. CESA won't put anything out until get buy-in from the states. The one ask, then, is for RIREF's go ahead to draft a unified perspective and recommendations that they would recommend as consistent with RI's interest; have RI review and comment. CESA does not currently envision funding needed, unless MMS wants to do a stakeholder process (which CESA thinks unlikely.) So they are seeking permission and input of review and comment time from staff or consultants of the Fund.
- b) Avian Issues - CESA is now working with USF&WS. CESA needs to raise funding for the facilitator of the process with USF&WS and AWEA as partners. CESA has drafted a proposal for funding – and wants to know if RI is interested in contributing (budget for facilitation and CESA staff time.)
- c) Affordable Housing PV Guide – See CESA Fall Meeting Summary. More information to follow at a later date.